

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update August 2 - 8, 2012

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 5:00pm

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open, including HWY 395. Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are open. *Slow for the Cone Zone*, while traveling through construction work zones. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623) or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com.

Don't miss the sights - Let someone else drive! YARTS (The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System) runs daily from the communities of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake & Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley; visit the web at www.yarts.com for a schedule.

Shuttle bus service to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is in operation. Day visitors and hikers must use the shuttle bus, as parking is limited. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for shuttle information, current recreation conditions, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **excessive heat** safety tips. All roads in the park are open. However, due to extreme heat and remoteness, the Park Rangers recommend travelers stay on the paved roads from June through September. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert locations at higher elevations, to always leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain an up to date backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For backcountry road information, check the web site at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit/Things To Do/Outdoor Activities") and the Morning Report for current conditions.

WEATHER: A weak ridge of high pressure will persist over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave through Friday, producing mostly dry conditions, sunny skies and warm temperatures. Pockets of moist, unstable air will produce a slight chance of isolated thunderstorms through Sunday as the high moves east. Drier air from the west will lower the chance of thunderstorms starting Tuesday. Drier conditions and cooler temperatures are expected for early next week. Highs have been in the upper 40s in the mountains, mid to upper 90s in the Owens Valley and around 115 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the mid 30s in the mountains, to the lower 90s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities are open throughout the area. Bishop **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Tuttle Creek (fee/drinking water) and Horton Creek (fee/drinking water) are open. Goodale Creek and Crowley Lake are closed for renovations.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days ahead of arrival. Check the website at recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 for more information.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat), Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek, White Wolf, Tamarack Flat, Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley and one-half of Tuolumne Meadows. For more park information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open sites include: Mesquite Springs, Texas Springs, Emigrant (tent only/no fee), Wildrose (water/no fee/no campfires), Thorndike (no water/no fee/no campfires/high clearance vehicles) and Mahogany Flat (no water/no fee/no campfires/high clearance vehicles). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For more information, visit the web at www.nps.gov/deva.

Camping sites are available year round in the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** at Hole-In-The-Wall and Mid-Hills. At 5,600 feet, Mid Hills is cooler than the desert floor. For information, visit the web at www.nps.gov/moja or call 1-760-733-4040.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County	California - Department of Transportation	Bureau of Land Management
California - Department of Fish & Game	National Park Service	Mono County
City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power		USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and many lakes and streams are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2012 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting goods stores throughout the region. California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes. Sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent are a must! Watch for lightning, which can occur with thunderstorms. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage.

BEARS (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Rush Creek/Mammoth lakes trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, including the reservation system, please visit the web site at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

FIRE DANGER: RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT on the Inyo National Forest, Sequoia National Forest, the Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, the BLM lands of the Bishop, Bakersfield and California Desert Districts. Restrictions are also in place on state lands within San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties.

THIS WEEK'S FUN: 40TH ANNUAL MAMMOTH LAKES FINE ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL starts on Friday, 8/3 and continues through Sunday, 8/5 from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily at Kittedge Sports in Mammoth Lakes. The festival features a terrific lineup of artists displaying a wide variety of arts and crafts including photography, watercolor and oil paintings, ceramics, jewelry and woodwork. For information, visit the web at www.pacificfineart.com.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

MONO COUNTY MUSEUM in Bridgeport is open Tuesday - Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, with great exhibits and photos of old mining days and a fine collection of Paiute baskets.

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm. A history talk is presented daily and other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for more information. The museum is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Visitors should bring drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Interpretive programs are offered at the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE**. Nature walks are presented daily at 10:00am, 1:00pm and 6:00pm. Meet at the South Tufa parking lot near the south shore of Mono Lake (recreation fee area). Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm for a complete list of activities, information and a video presentation on this remarkable lake.

Remember the days of the "Slim Princess"! Visit **LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE**, four miles north of Bishop on HWY 6, to learn of early days in the Owens Valley. Laws is open daily 10:00am to 4:00pm.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at www.nps.gov/manz for information.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**; with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum opens daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER at Furnace Creek is open daily, 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Reservations for tours are on the web at recreation.gov.

Information on the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** can be obtained daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the **Kelso Depot Visitor Center** (off I 15 at Baker or off I 40 on Kelbaker Road). The Visitor Center features exhibits, an orientation film, an art gallery and bookstore. Kelso Depot ranger talks are offered daily at 11:00am and 2:00pm. The **Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center** is open Friday through Sunday, from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center.

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